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THE NEW BUILDINGS OF THE UNION THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

The theological seminaries of the country will cordially unite in congratulating the Union Theological Seminary of New York upon the completion and occupation of its splendid new group of buildings on Morningside Heights which were dedicated on November 29. This notable school of theological learning was established in 1836. Until 1884 it was situated at what is now a far down-town location, in University Place. In the latter year it removed to new and splendid buildings at 700 Park Avenue, which it was then fully expected would serve the purpose of the institution for an indefinite period to come. Barely a quarter of a century, however, served happily to prove the error of this judgment, and more happily still, to bring to the institution the friends and means which made possible the recent transfer to the new group of buildings extending from Broadway to Claremont Avenue, and from 120th to 122d streets.

The erection of this group of buildings is a notable event in the history of theological education, if not also in that of ecclesiastical architecture in this country. The architecture is the English Perpendicular Gothic. The quadrangle includes the Entrance or Library Tower, an administration building in which are contained also classrooms, a chapel, a library building, a student's dormitory, a President's house, and a residence building for the families of the members of the faculty. The total cost of land and buildings is approximately \$2,400,000, being eight times the amount received for the sale of the land and buildings at 700 Park Avenue. The chapel, a gift of Mrs. D. Willis James as a memorial to her husband, was erected at a cost of \$300,000. The tower at 120th Street and Broadway will eventually rise to a height of 200 feet. It will be similar in character to the tower in the Houses of Parliament in London.

The erection of these buildings at a cost which even a comparatively few years ago would not have been dreamed of, bear significant testimony to the interest—let us hope the permanent interest—of the church, including men and women of the largest financial resources, in the work of theological education. That scholars such as Charles Cuthbert Hall, Francis Brown, and his associates, should have planned so splendidly for the future of theological education, and that laymen of the church

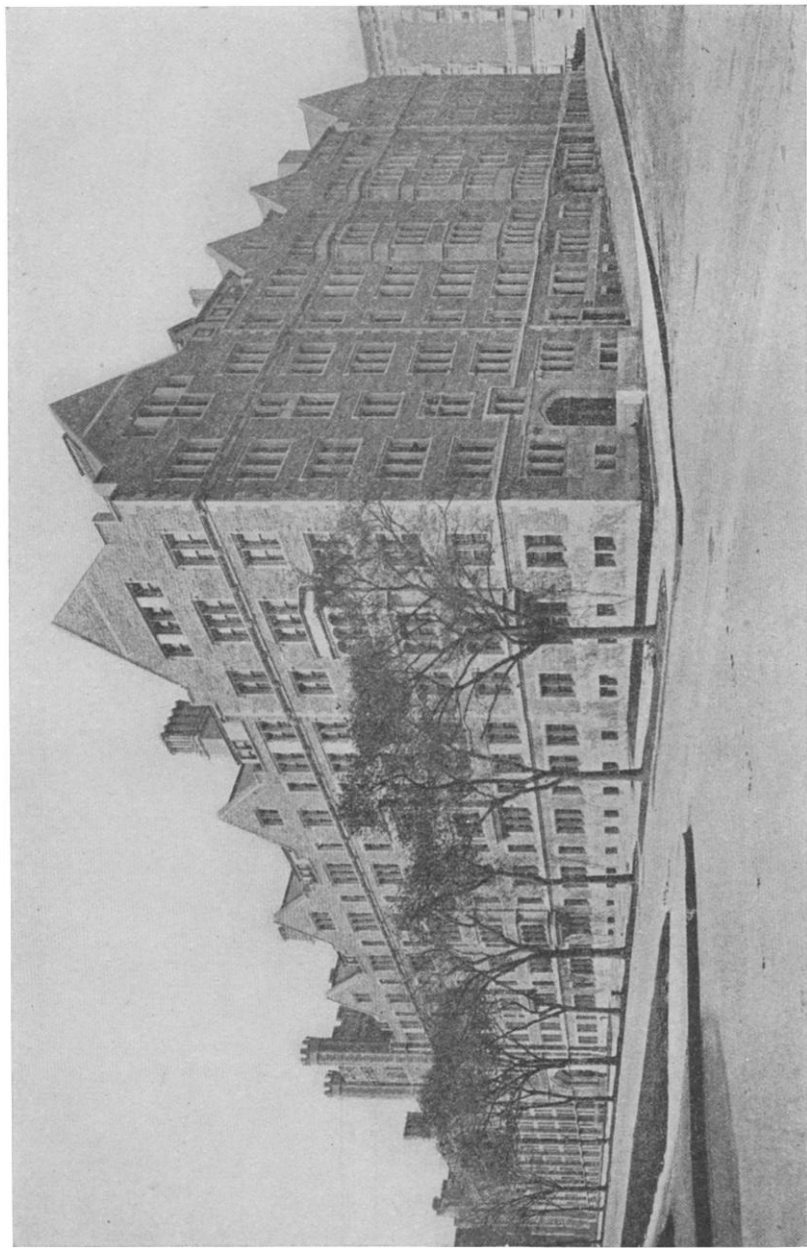


THE CHANCEL OF THE CHAPEL, UNION THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

such as D. Willis James and John Crosby Brown should, at great cost to themselves, have realized the plan in brick and stone, bears weighty witness to the hold which the cause of theological education has today upon the strong men of the church.

On the other hand, the erection of these buildings bears no less important testimony to the expansion of theological education. For the need of the new buildings was not so much the result of increasing numbers in the school as of the broadening curriculum and scope of theological education. As long ago as 1880, before the Seminary was removed to 700 Park Avenue, it had 130 students; in 1905, when probably the first steps were being taken for the erection of the buildings which have just been completed, the registration of the school numbered but 138; its latest reports show a registration of 192, which is probably the highest number which the school ever contained. This is indeed a notable increase, but even if anticipated can scarcely have been the chief cause for the removal to Morningside Heights. More potent causes have been the increase of the library, the enlargement of the curriculum, and the broadening conception of what is involved in an adequate theological education for men of the twentieth century. It is instructive to observe that, while the total number of the faculty in 1884-85 was seven, there today are fifteen professors in active service, three instructors, and two stated lecturers.

Congratulating the Union Theological Seminary on its beautiful new buildings and its fair prospect for the future, we congratulate the church even more on the testimony which is thus borne to the undiminished interest in theological education, and the broadening conception of its scope.



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